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Schwarzenegger Threatens to Slice College Budget

BY JOE LAFLEUR
STAFF WRITER

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, in an attempt to correct the current budget deficit, has proposed budget cuts of $332.2 million from the state's community colleges, $66 million from the University of California and another $66 million from the California State Universities. If enacted, these cuts would come on top of the $290 million reduction to the community colleges included in the 2008-09 State Budget.

Should the mid-year budget proposal pass, California community colleges would be forced to turn away 262,845 students, according to Scott Lay, president and chief executive officer of the Community College League of California.

"These proposed budget cuts come at the worst possible time for the community colleges, as they struggle to serve a flood of displaced workers seeking to upgrade their job skills," said Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, Diane Woodruff, in a statement issued Nov. 7. "With California's unemployment rate rising to [8.2] percent, the colleges are experiencing a 10.2 percent increase in enrollments, roughly 100,000 full-time students beyond the level for which the colleges are funded. Our colleges always step up when the economy is in a down turn and this time is no different, however it will require additional resources to sustain this effort."

The California Community College system is comprised of 110 colleges, which service a combined 2.7 million students annually, making it the largest system of higher education in the nation. Seventy percent of California nurses and 80 percent of the state's firefighters, law enforcement officers and emergency medical technicians are educated and trained in the California Community College's, according to the California Community College System Offices.

The Los Angeles Community College District, which serviced 144,293 students in the spring of 2008, will face the largest budget cut of all 72 districts in the state, $29.9 million, according to the CCLC.

Valley College has begun to prepare for such budget cuts by taking precautionary measures and reducing the number of classes being offered during the spring 2009 semester.

"We're cutting somewhere in the neighborhood of one hundred classes of growth that we had added," said Vice President of Academic Affairs, Sandra Mayo. "L.A. Valley College's budget was already in a deficit mode and … We believe that the state will be taking money back … so we need to cut even further because in order to offer classes you have to pay faculty and you have to have the budget to pay for the faculty."

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Prop. 8's Future in Supreme Hands

BY SASHA SANTACRUZ
STAFF WRITER

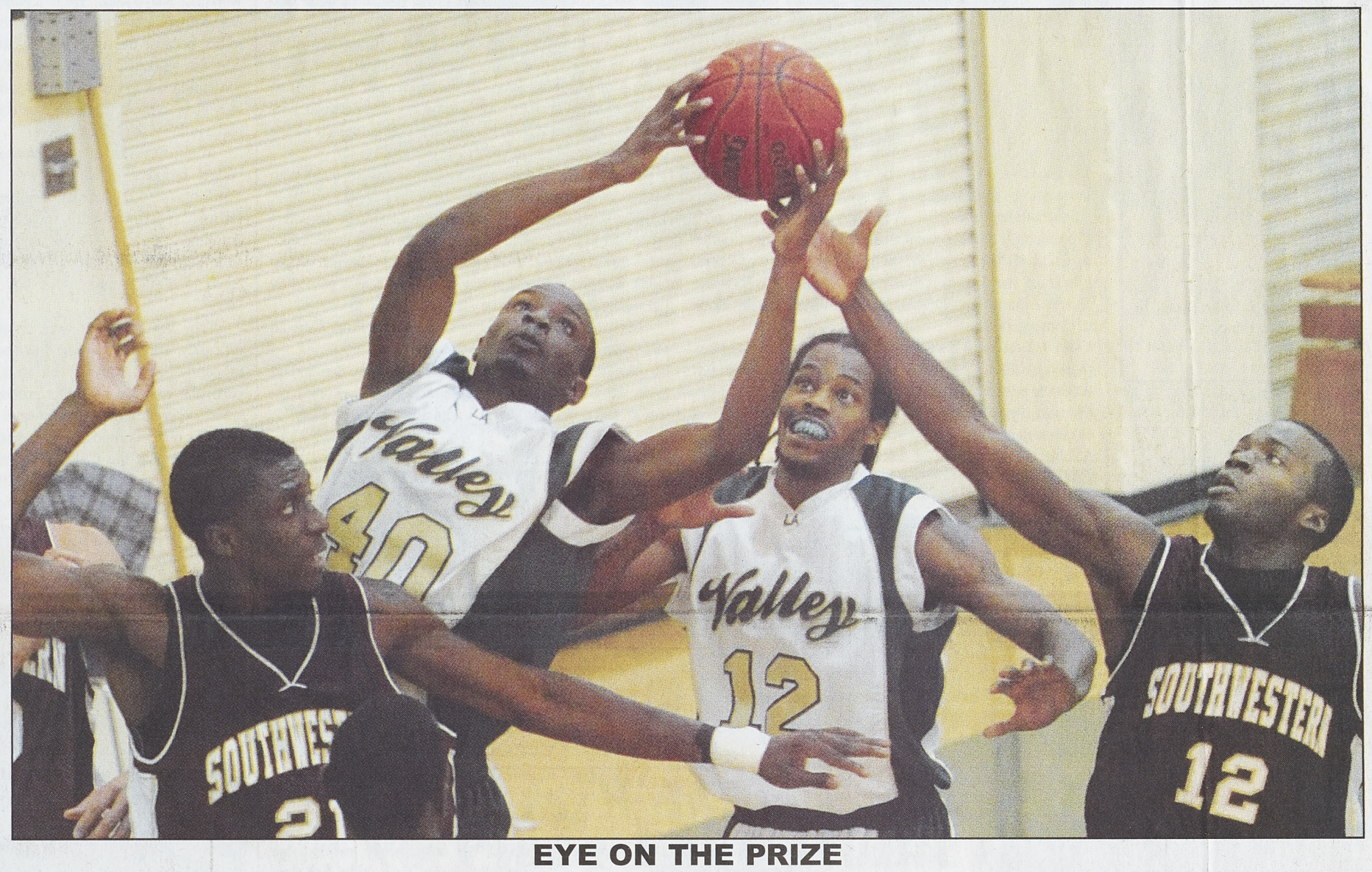
The California Supreme Court announced it will review legal challenges to Proposition 8 filed by groups wanting the measure to be overturned. A hearing may come as early as March.

The court asked supporters and opponents of Prop. 8, which overruled the May 15 decision of the California Supreme Court that legalized same-sex marriage, to submit written arguments by Jan. 21. While the proposition is being reviewed, same-sex couples are not permitted to get married.

"I applaud the Supreme Court's decision to review this important civil rights issue," said San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom. "Every Californian deserves equal protection under the law. I am optimistic that the Supreme Court will affirm that separate is not equal."

Lawsuits filed by opponents of Prop. 8 asked the court to consider whether the measure is a constitutional revision or a constitutional amendment.

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EYE ON THE PRIZE

SCOTT MITCHELL, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR

Valley College foward Curtis Leslie (40) pulls in a strong offensive rebound in a crowd of opposing players during the Monachs 67-64 win over Southwestern College at home on Saturday night. The Monarchs are 3-2 for the season, and travel to Moorpark College over the Thanksgiving weekend to compete in the Moorpark Tournament. For more sports coverage, see page 5.

Last Minute Scramble for UC, Cal State Application Deadline

BY JESSE RICHARDSON
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

As the time ticks down to Nov. 30, the deadline to submit applications to the University of California and the California State University systems, the number of students applying to college continues to grow, resulting in additional challenges each student will face when filling out their application.

The California State University system had already registered 138,000 applications within the first month of opening the entry period for the fall 2009 semester, making it likely that the CSU's will surpass 2007's record of 515,448 undergraduate applications.

The UC system's 2007 record of 121,005 undergrad applicants will probably be broken as well. The number of applicants last year rose 9 percent compared to the year before.

Nicole Valdez, who works in the Career/Transfer Center as a career guidance and counseling assistant, explained that even though there has been an increased number of applications, the majority of students haven't submitted yet. "[On average] 93 percent of all UC applications are received in the last 3 days," she explained.

Synthia Saltoun, the Director of the Career/Transfer Center, describes how she, "always tell[s] students to apply broadly, [to] get started early so you do not feel rushed, [and to] try not to wait to the last day to send your application."

Valdez also said that in the past, there have been problems with the number of people accessing the Web site, putting pressure on the servers and making it slower to process the information. This has previously caused schools to extend the deadline. However, don't bank on the possibility of a late deadline.

There are still tools all over campus that students can use in order to ensure that their work is shining as brightly as it can. Tools that students, like psychology major Rocio Menendez, have been utilizing.

"I've gone to TRiO a lot to use their tutors and [to] see their counselor," Menendez said. "Also I've

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Monarch Football experiences the best season in 11 years.
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JONATHAN GIBBY, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

Forward Thinking is the Key to Spring

BY ASTRID SEIPELT
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Although it is only November, students who are planning to attend Valley College in 2009 should be thinking of the upcoming spring semester. The key to having a successful semester is using resources on campus to help achieve their educational goals.

The counseling department, located in the Administration Building, offers assistance to students year round, with information on what courses are needed for an occupational certificate, associate degree, or to transfer. Counseling receptionist Selma Cohen says that the first thing a student should do before a new semester is to make an appointment with their academic counselor.

"If students can't make an appointment and they are feeling stressed, we have drop in counseling that can help them," said Cohen. "Every term, students should make an appointment with a counselor so they can get their classes. A counselor will give them a list of classes they need…They give them everything."

Cohen also noted that students who have attended other colleges should have their transcripts sent directly to Valley so they can be evaluated and added to their record.

The spring also marks the end of two years of hard work for students who wish to graduate. According to Sue Hoult, admissions and records evaluation technician, students can petition to graduate in the spring up until March 13, 2009, in Administration 127. Those who wish to petition can do so even if they still owe tuition fees to the school, or still need to complete some class requirements in the spring semester.

"A common mistake is students waiting to petition after they have completed their spring classes, or missing the petition deadline [in March]," said Hoult.

However, before petitioning, students must make an appointment with a counselor to ensure that they are on track to graduate. It is a misconception that a student can petition as soon as they have reached 60 units. Students must

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JONAHTHAN GIBBY, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

DOING THEIR DANCE - Long lines of students have crowded the counseling office in the last few weeks to meet with counselors to plan out their academic future.

NEWS

VALLEY STAR STAFF

EDITOR IN CHIEF
ASTRID SEIPELT

PHOTO EDITOR
JONATHAN GIBBY

MANAGING EDITOR
JOSH SPENCE

NEWS EDITOR
KRISTEN BECKER

OPINION EDITOR
SARAH KNOWLES

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SASHA SANTACRUZ

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS
JOHN CAMARENA
ANA ROSA MURILLO

ADVERTISING MANAGER
CHIP RUDOLPH

ADVISERS
BILL DAUBER
ROD LYONS

thevalleystar@yahoo.com
www.lavalleystar.com
(818) 947-2576

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'Transfer'

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gone to the workshops at the Writing and Career/Transfer Center."

Besides at the TRiO office, which is exclusively for use by TRiO students, counselors are stationed in the Counseling Department in the Administration Building and offer walk-in as well as scheduled appointments. Just down the hall, in room 126, one can find the Career/Transfer Center, also equipped with professionals awaiting the distressed student.

Additionally, if you've got your facts down and just need a place to start the application, the Career/Transfer Center offers a computer lab with easy access to online applications, college catalogs and career information.

In addition to counselors and computers, the Career/Transfer Center's "How to Transfer" workshop scheduled on Nov. 26, just a day after the Writing Center's last "How to Write a Personal Statement" workshop, leaves students some last-minute chances to put the final polish their applications.

Perhaps the best strategy has already come and passed. Alexandra Cerritos, a sociology major planning to transfer to CSUN, tells how she prevented pulling out her hair this November by playing the role of the early bird. "I'm definitely excited. I already submitted in October and now I'm just waiting," said Cerritos.

'Prop. 8'

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For something to be ruled a revision, it has to be defined as a fundamental change in government structure and must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the legislature before it can be put on the ballot. Gay- rights activists say the proposition is a revision of the state's constitution because it fundamentally altered the guarantee of equal protection.

Groups such as Equal Rights Advocates, Constitutional Law Center of the Monterey College of Law and The Los Angeles County Bar Association have challenged the proposition with several lawsuits. The city of Los Angeles, the city and county of San Francisco and Santa Clara County have also filed their own lawsuits. The order, granting review of the lawsuits, was signed by six of the seven justices.

According to the Los Angeles Times, the latest anti-Proposition 8 lawsuits were filed by the California Council on Churches, the Episcopal Bishop of California, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ, the Progressive Jewish Alliance and the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.

After voters in California passed the ban on same-sex marriage with a 52 percent 'Yes' vote on Nov. 4, thousands of people protested throughout the state and across the nation. Cities such Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco and Long Beach saw numerous protests, with more than 20,000 activists gathering in Hollywood alone. More than 3,000 protestors marched past the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints temple in downtown Salt Lake City, Utah, to voice their disapproval of Mormon involvement in the 'Yes on 8' campaign.

"We should all have the right to marry who we choose," said Valley College student Isabel Aguilar. "Hopefully, our Supreme Court will see that everyone should be equal and resolve the matter."

The State Supreme Court will also determine the legality of the 18,000 same-sex marriages that occurred prior to the passing of the proposition. Attorney General Jerry Brown predicted that same-sex marriages performed between June 17 and November 4 remain valid and will be upheld by the court.

A constitutional amendment qualifies for the ballot with signatures on initiative petitions.

The court usually acknowledges the merit of the voters on initiative challenges, but has overturned popular ballot measures in the past. In 1994, proposition 187, which denied public benefits to illegal aliens in California, was passed by voters, but overturned by the court.

However, not all Californians believe that Prop. 8 should be overturned.

"It's funny how they [same-sex couples] are demanding to be heard," said student Cesar Seminario. "The people have spoken and now our rights as voters might be taken away."

'Budget'

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A significant reduction in the community college budget would not only force the number of classes to be slashed and students to be turned away, but staff and faculty would also face the possibility of job loss.

"We're going to continue to try to make sure we aren't losing too many faculty," said Mayo. "We're going to loose a few because of the adjunct classes that are being cancelled. Full-time people aren't going to lose their jobs right now but if you cancel a class for an adjunct, then that's a job they don't have or a class they're not teaching."

Valley is also concerned with retaining its student workers.

"That's my biggest concern, that eventually we will lose our student workers," Mayo said. "We're trying to hold onto student workers and of course tutors, because the tutors directly support the students, but at some point something has to give because money only goes so far. It would be nice if we had a little bit of elasticity there."

In an overview of the governor's budget proposal issued on Nov. 11, California's Legislative Analyst's Office recommended increasing enrollment fees to $26 per unit (up from $20) effective Jan. 1, 2009 and again to $30 per unit as of July 1, 2009.

"The last time fees went up significantly, enrollment went down significantly," said Mayo. "But in this particular case we have this problem where people might come anyway."

This budget proposal comes at the same time that the CSUs have proposed slashing enrollment by 10,000 students, as well as shortening application deadlines and raising the academic bar. While California State University Chancellor Charles B. Reed said the slash in enrollment to the 23-campus system will mainly affect first-year freshman, Valley will most likely also feel the effects of the CSU's decision.

"It's going to affect community colleges," said Valley Career/Transfer Center Director Synthia Saltoun. "As students are turned away, they're going to look to the community colleges, and we've lost a lot of money so we're going to have to cut classes [and] services."

According to Saltoun, out of the 1,000 to 1,200 Valley students who transfer each year, 650 attend colleges in the CSU system.

Dr. Yasmin Delahoussaye, Vice President of Student Services, fears that as students are turned away from four year colleges, Valley will struggle to accommodate them.

"My huge concern for students at community colleges and particularly at Valley College is that we have what's called a California Master Plan for Education [passed in 2002], which states that there will be a place for all graduates of high school or anyone who wishes to go into post secondary education," said Delahoussaye. "… So, as more students flood into the community colleges, traditionally we would open more classes. We will not have the ability to open more classes."

As the California Legislature remains in a deadlock over the issue, Delahoussaye advises students to become active in order to prevent the legislature from passing the new budget proposal.

"We have to get out there, we have to tell our story, we have to talk to legislatures and we have to let them know how vitally important community colleges are."

CAMPUS CRIME

No Black and White in Copier Assault

BY SASHA SANTACRUZ
STAFF WRITER

A student was involved in an altercation on Nov. 17 at approximately 4:20 p.m., when she was accused of stealing a dollar from a Xerox machine located in the library. The perpetrator, who thought that the dollar coming out of the machine was hers, preceded to yell at the student and struck her in the face when she took possession of the money. When the attacker attempted to strike her a second time, the victim put her hand up in self-defense and received a laceration to her left thumb. The perpetrator fled the scene, but left behind her student identification. In addition to her thumb injury, the victim had a scratch on her forehead and was bleeding from the mouth. She did not wish to press charges against the student, but asked the college to discipline her for her actions.



SCOTT MITCHELL, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR

FUTURE PILOT - A young boy walks toward a vintage aircraft at the Wings Over Long Beach aviation exhibit on Sunday. More than a dozen vintage battle and transport aircraft were displayed at the Long Beach Airport.

'Spring'

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satisfy all areas of graduation requirements, including having a GPA of at least 2.0, completing a minimum of 12 units at Valley, and passing at least English 33 and the equivalent of Math 115 with a grade of C or better. These requirements are available in the Valley Course Catalog, or semester class schedules.

When enrolling for spring, each continuing student is given an appointment time, after which they can register by phone, Internet, or in person in the Administration building. Former Valley student Evonne Helo says that online registration through www.lavc.edu is the way to go for those with a busy schedule.

"I registered for my classes online, it was just easier for me and more efficient," said Helo, who now attends CSUN. "I didn't have to wait in line behind other students who are having problems getting their classes."

Students without a registration appointment can sign up for classes during open enrollment between Feb. 4 and Feb. 12. If a class is already at its maximum enrollment, or open enrollment has ended, the student must ask for an add permit from the instructor. Students who owe money for tuition or fines to Valley, or any of the campuses in the Los Angeles Community College District will not be able to enroll until their fees are paid.

Corrections

Clarification – Last issue in the story "Students Asked to Pay it Forward," the second paragraph should have read, "The Foundation would like for students to donate the fee so that they can participate in philanthropy in their own college."

A Look Back at This Week in History

VALLEY STAR Nov. 26, 2003

'Tis the Season of Overspending – Americans were set to spend an average of $671.89 each during the 2003 holiday season, according to the Nation Retail Federation's Holiday Consumer Intentions and Actions Survey. The poll also found that 41 percent of people found the holiday season "somewhat or very stressful."

"We live in a generation of 'I want it now and I'll pay later.' Unfortunately, later comes later and later," said Valley College student Ellen Nathan. "Then you end up owing more and more."

Laying off the credit cards was one way to keep spending down, according to Valley student Luis Lopez.

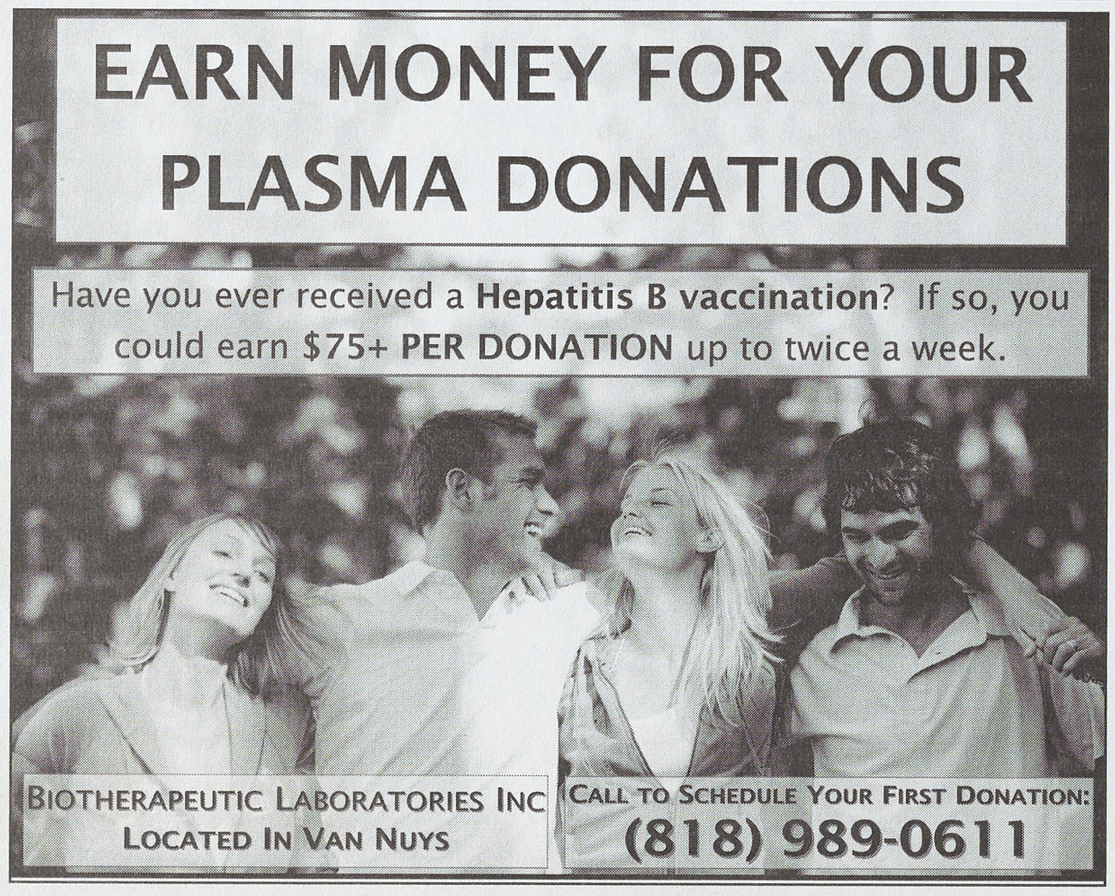
"As long as you're responsible everything will be okay. I only use the ATM. It's my own money and I know what I have," he said. "Take control of the credit card or it could take control of you."

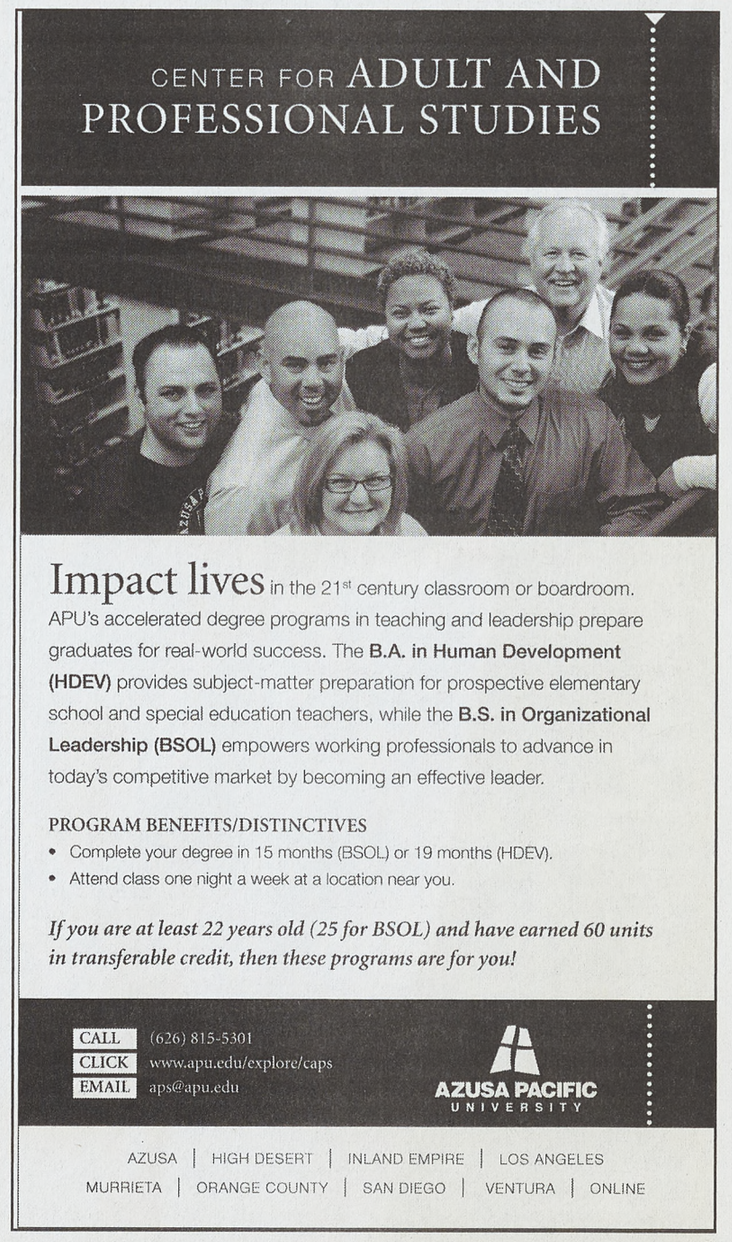
Flu is Coming for You – Influenza season had come early to Valley, with the campus Health Center running out of their supply of the vaccine to the common winter visitor.

"There were a few cases reported before the flu season, so the vaccine was made available early," said Brandy Rodriguez, medical assistant at the center. "We get a limited amount of vaccine so we keep it strictly limited to qualified student use only. Faculty and staff are generally covered for it under their own health plans,"

According to Rodriguez, only high risk students qualify for the free flu shot. Such risk groups include all adults aged 60 and older, and people 18 and older who have heart, lung or kidney disease, or certain other chronic conditions. Students who were not eligible were encouraged to go to surrounding clinics to be vaccinated.

Valley business student Jackeline Sanchez feels the benefits of the Flu shot make it worthwhile. "I got the shot last year and it helped. I didn't get sick," Sanchez said. "This year I haven't had time to get it yet."





Valley: Land of The Brain Dead

■ Common sense is negelected as students seem to leave their brains at Valley College's entrance.

BY SARAH KNOWLES
OPINION EDITOR

Valley College is supposed to be a solid learning experience for us all. From academic knowledge to personal growth, the school's Website boasts "developing critical thinkers and life-long learners." What a shame these "life-long learners" don't seem to use any of their learned skills around campus.

According to the Valley Website, the campus can accommodate up to 23,000 students. With so many people in a relatively small area, it is no surprise that someone may lose a couple of brain cells and forget their common sense. However, the number of stupid incidents doesn't seem to be as rare as most would expect.

"It's annoying. There's never any computers available.

- Anonymous Valley student

The library has a small selection of internet-enabled computers. It's not an uncommon sight to see a line of students desperately waiting to check for new photo comments on their Facebook. Of course, some open Word at the same time, somehow feeling that a blank word processing screen will make them look intelligent. As each new computer becomes available, the students still in line become anxious

"It's annoying," said one student in the queue, that didn't want to be named. "There's never any computers available."

The students have never walked ten feet around the same building – a computer lab, complete with 50 internet-enabled computers exists and is rarely full. The library staff are no better, watching the line grow in the knowledge that there are an array of computers available seconds away. While library work is not the most exciting, the dirty computer secret that the librarians keep must add a little devious excitement throughout their day.

The parking situation at Valley has never been great, but drivers make this worse. Pulling up to Lot A can be an off-putting task; waiting behind yet another dim-witted person blocking the path for everyone, not to mention almost running over pedestrians walking to their own cars on their way out. Suddenly the Metro Orange line, complete with its selection of homeless people and bag ladies, doesn't seem so bad.

Smoking is a vile habit that affects many of those studying at Valley, and sadly, not just the smokers. Designated areas exist, but many smokers seem unable to sit in the area, intent on moving a few feet over to let us all in on their second hand smoke.

As the smoke gives us all a cough or two on our way from one class to the next, the noise surrounding Monarch Square is enough to give many of us a headache as well as a sore throat. Rowdy groups blockade the area, not to mention The Horseshoe – All hell may break loose if you even think of entering this sacred area without your own group. Don't forget to make sure your posse are complete with black hair and baggy trousers.

The 2006 retention rate was 86 percent, according to the Valley Fact Book and Effectiveness Manual. The sad part is that the 14 percent drop out rate seems far too low.

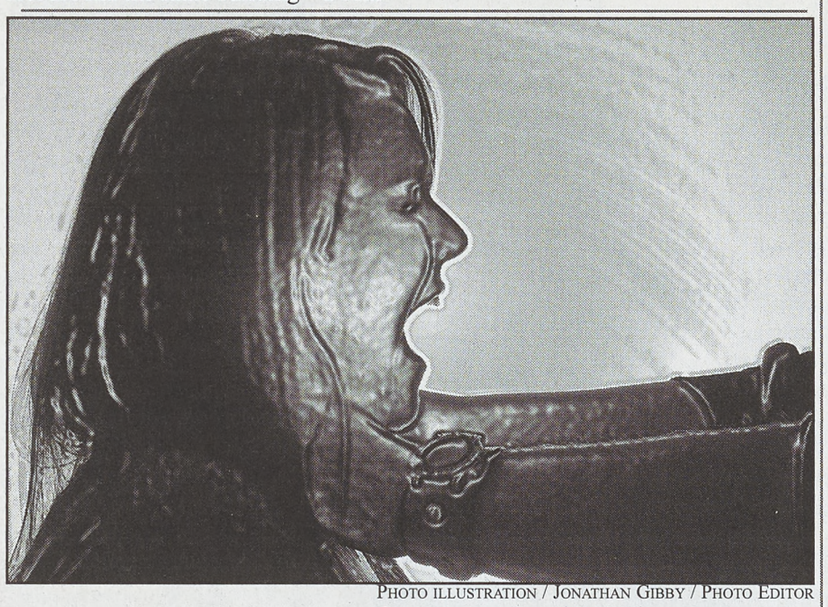


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION / JONATHAN GIBBY / PHOTO EDITOR

An Assault on Women

■ We should not accept sexual assault and violence as commonplace.

BY ASTRID SEIPELT
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Think about one of your fellow female students on campus. She is wearing jeans and a tank top and when she stops to talk to a male friend, she smiles and tosses her hair. This behavior seems pretty average around Valley College, but a recent Australian study by the White Ribbon Foundation found that one in seven young men think, "it is OK to make a girl have sex with them if she was flirting." The research also concluded that one third of those men surveyed thought, "it was not a big deal" to hit a woman.

Common sense says that it is never okay to hit anyone, whether it be a man or a woman, and it is disgusting to think that any male is fine with pinning a girl down and raping her.

"There is a complete difference between flirting and crossing the line," said Bookstore worker Renata Ramirez, 28. "[Girls who dress provocatively], if anything might be lacking some confidence in themselves and may want some attention, but they aren't asking to be raped."

According to the Palo Alto Medical Center, women 16 to 19 years of age are four times more likely to experience rape, attempted rape or sexual assault than women in the general population. Girls of that age should be worried about what to wear to prom, or getting into college, not whether the way they conduct themselves in front of their male peers is going to put them at risk of sexual assault.

We should all be disgusted at the findings of the White Ribbon Foundation. It is certainly disgusting that there are still men who believe that they are sexual 'aggressors', and they can't stop themselves once a woman arouses them. There is also the myth that 'all women really want it, they just won't admit it.' Men who still believe this need to drag themselves out of the dark ages.

Valley College does its part to educate students about sexual assault and violence, with each April named 'Sexual Assault Awareness Month.' The LAVC Campus Violence Response Team is also holding a creative arts contest in which students can submit essays, poems, songs and posters, sharing their interpretation on the topic of "love's not supposed to hurt."

"We aim to increase awareness, education and prevention at a local level on campus," said Reed Walsh, who organizes the contest and it the leader of the Health Advocacy Response Team.

We should not stop at holding contests to educate the community about what is still considered a taboo subject by many. Talking about sexual assault is the best way to stop this heinous crime from occurring, because silence only allows the perpetrators to keep believing that what they do is OK.



ILLUSTRATION / EDUARDO HERRERA / SPECIAL TO THE STAR

End of the World as We Know It

■ There's something strange in the air and we all need to take note, before it's too late for us all.

BY LAUREN LEES
STAFF WRITER

Imagine a desolate land ravished by fires, with smoldering ashes covering once lush forests. Humans exist no more; overtaken by microscopic organisms more capable of surviving the harsh terrain humans have left behind. It might not happen tomorrow, but it is inevitable. The only thing missing is the arrival of the antichrist to make it official.

You may remember when Al Gore warned of the 'inconvenient truth' known as global warming, and these effects are felt the moment you wake up to 88 degree days in November. Granted this is California, but according to the Los Angeles Almanac, the average temperature for November should run between 70 to 76 degrees. The 12 degree difference is evidence something is amiss.

Despite having year round flip-flop weather, the heat creates a great incubator for fires to rampage our land, evident by more than five million acres destroyed by wildfires this year alone, according to National Interagency Fire Center.

The Union of Concerned Scientist states, "If global warming emissions continue unabated, California is expected to face poorer air qualities, a sharp rise in extreme heat, a less reliable water supply, more dangerous wildfires, and expanding risks to agriculture."

Next stop on the apocalyptic express is the economy. Every good bible thumper knows that economic crisis is a clear sign of the end. According to Ed R. Meelhuysen, president of the Bible Research Company, "The coming financial collapse in countries around the world and in the USA will be devastating and create a demand for government intervention at the cost of liberties." Sound familiar?

While America waits around to see just how the 700 billion dollar bailout is going to work, AIG is busy throwing themselves a grand party to celebrate having America right where they want it. Meanwhile, General Motors is predicting its own demise, which will only add to the already 10 million Americans currently unemployed. But it doesn't matter at the end who is working or not, the world's end does not discriminate between those with jobs and those without.

The sad thing about our imposing demise is that it's the human species' fault. Humans as a whole are responsible for the cries of help surrounding us. For centuries, we have mauled and raped our land, its inhabitants, and ourselves.

As we face the dawn of the end, we can only thank each other. It's adios time for dear earth, you will be missed; hopefully we can have a crack at this living thing one more time and appreciate the simple beauty of the earth instead of bathing in our own money, power, and greed.

No Place Like Home

■ Tax incentives for the film industry could help the California economy but first it would have to be passed.

BY JOE LAFLEUR
STAFF WRITER

Coming to a theatre near you; Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in the role of a lifetime. From the man who saved the world from evil robots hell-bent on human extinction and brought you the current California budget crisis comes his latest effort to save the entertainment industry and in turn, the economy.

With California on the brink of diving $20 billion in debt, Schwarzenegger continues his desperate scramble to once again become the hero and find a solution that will work.

"California has to start thinking about how to help Californians get jobs here locally."

- Eric Swelstad
Media Arts Department Chair

The California film industry has fallen victim to "runaway productions," – when a film or TV series leaves the country or state to shoot elsewhere. Most recently, shows such as 'Ugly Betty' and 'Fringe' have left California for states with better filming incentives such as New York and New Mexico.

In a state that relies so heavily on this industry, studio executives hurt local businesses as well as cause money and job losses when they move productions away. Studios no longer rent from local equipment companies or patronize surrounding businesses.

"We got to take care of our own," said Valley College Media Arts Department Chair and filmmaker, Eric Swelstad. "California has to start thinking about how to help Californians get jobs here locally."

Since his 2003 election, Schwarzenegger has tried to raise incentives for films and T.V. to keep Los Angeles the epicenter of the entertainment industry. However, the state legislature continues to reject Schwarzenegger's proposals, and the majority of Hollywood has grown tired of the fight.

According to the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp., the film and television industry generates $30 billion statewide yearly and creates 928 direct and indirect jobs on large budget films ($70 million or more).

Big-named-actors are not the ones harmed; it is the supporting cast and those behind-the-scene people that are affected. In a business filled with excess and fueled by greed, studio executives will do what it takes to spend the least amount of money.

Shows like 'Friday Night Lights,' which films in Texas, only take with them the series regulars, producers, directors and other key figures. The rest of the crew is hired locally, costing the studio less than flying cast and crew to their location and paying for their living expenses required by the unions.

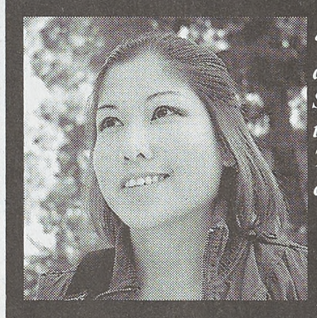
"The problem is, when you don't hire a lighting person or say a craft services person because you're going out of state, then that person is going to have to find a job somewhere else, and it just keeps adding up," Swelstad said.

For a state as entertainment oriented as California there is no excuse for allowing that integral part of our economy to leave for other states. It is ignorant on the part of politicians and if they plan to save the states economy they must heed Schwarzenegger's warnings before major budget cuts are implemented and schools, hospitals and other state funded programs collapse.

CAMPUS VIEW:

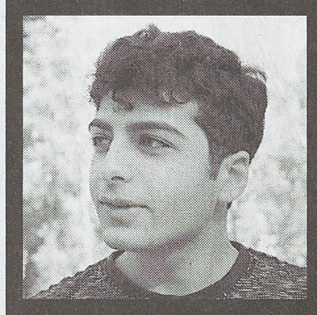
Photos by Ana Rosa Murillo/Valley Star

Do you have any problems with students on campus?



"Some people in groups are rowdy. Monarch Square is too noisy so I try and avoid that area. The students don't take care of bathrooms."

-Lesley Sarthou
nursing



"Students hang off trees and hog the benches. Some are disruptive and are unprofessional in class, talking on their cellphones."

-George Elias
journalism and creative writing



"When I'm in class and people let their cellphone ring, then answer it and talk, it's annoying."

-Nixia Gamec
nursing



"I've seen people drunk and puking in the toilet. It's pretty disgusting."

-Abraham Ochoa
sociology

VALLEY LIFE

LAVC EVENTS

Tuesday, Nov. 25

LACCD Wellness Program Walking Challenge (Team Valley College Walk 2008) – Contact: Katrelia C. Walker (213) 891-2040 http://teams.sparkpeople.com/valleycollegewalk08

LAVC Bookstore Sidewalk Sale @ 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Monarch Square) – Contact: LAVC Bookstore at (818) 947-2313

"Untidy: the Worlds of Doug Harvey" Exhibition @ 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. & 6-9 p.m. (Art Gallery) - Contact: (818) 778-5536 http://www.lavc.edu/arts/artgallery.html

"Rhizomatic Transmission II" Slide Talk Presented by Doug Harvey @ 8 p.m. (Art History Lecture Hall) - Contact: (818) 778-5536 http://www.lavc.edu/arts/artgallery.html

Wednesday, Nov. 26

LACCD Wellness Program Walking Challenge (Team Valley College Walk 2008) – Contact: Katrelia C. Walker (213) 891-2040 http://teams.sparkpeople.com/valleycollegewalk08

LAVC Bookstore Sidewalk Sale @ 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Monarch Square) – Contact: LAVC Bookstore at (818) 947-2313

"Untidy: the Worlds of Doug Harvey" Exhibition @ 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. & 6-9 p.m. (Art Gallery) - Contact: (818) 778-5536 http://www.lavc.edu/arts/artgallery.html

Thursday, Nov. 27

Campus Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

LACCD Wellness Program Walking Challenge (Team Valley College Walk 2008) – Contact: Katrelia C. Walker (213) 891-2040 http://teams.sparkpeople.com/valleycollegewalk08

Friday, Nov. 28

Campus Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

LACCD Wellness Program Walking Challenge (Team Valley College Walk 2008) – Contact: Katrelia C. Walker (213) 891-2040 http://teams.sparkpeople.com/valleycollegewalk08

Friday, Dec. 5

The Child Development Club is hosting a workshop to benefit the Olive View Infant and Child Care Center 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. For more information contact Heather Trojan (818) 947-2600 ext.8268

Think Transfer!

Fall 2008 UC and CSU priority transer application deadline is November 30. Apply on line at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply or www.csumentor.edu

Guarantee your admission to a UC by participating in a UC Transfer Admission Guarantee Program. For program information, qualifications and applications visit the Career/Transfer Center, Admin. 126, or call (818) 947-2646. All events held in the Career/Transfer Center

All events held in Career/Transfer Center unless other wise indicated. Call (818) 947-2646 for further information.

Wednesday, Nov. 26

UC Irvine rep 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
How to Transfer Workshop 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Undecided Major/Career Workshop 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 2

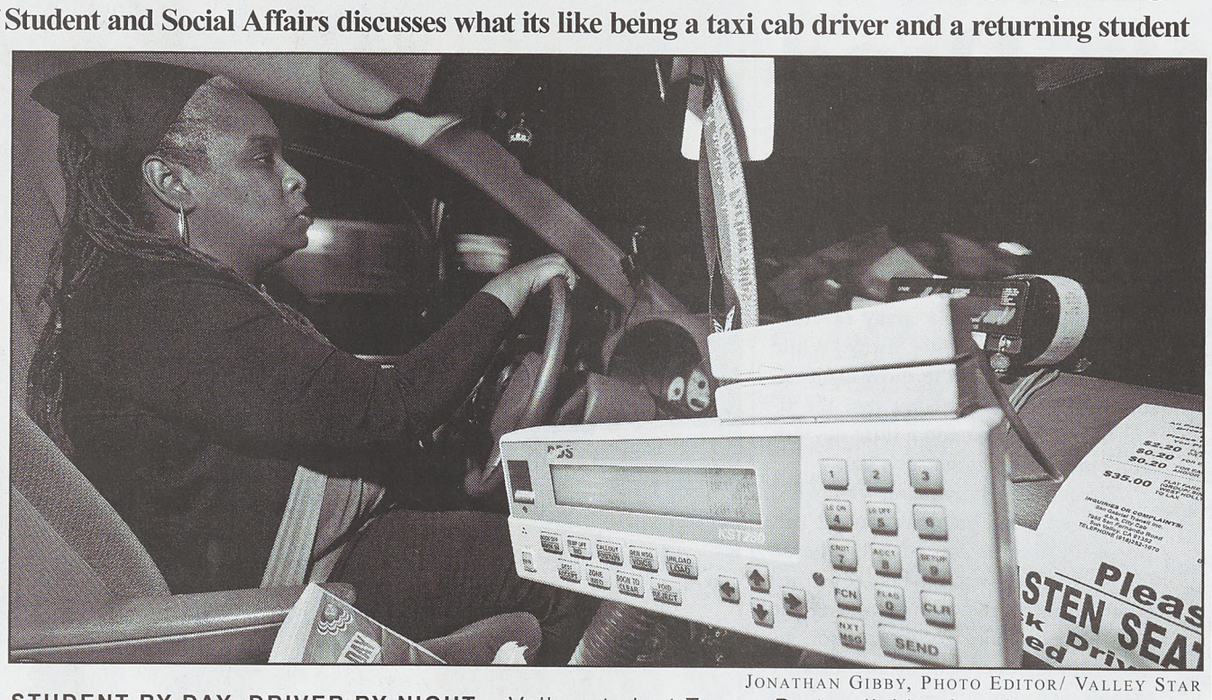
CSUN Rep 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
How to Transfer Workshop 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Valley People

Porter Reveals Taxicab Confessions

■ **ASU Commissioner of Student and Social Affairs discusses what its like being a taxi cab driver and a returning student**

BY LAUREN LEES
STAFF WRITER



JONATHAN GIBBY, PHOTO EDITOR/ VALLEY STAR

STUDENT BY DAY, DRIVER BY NIGHT – Valley student Tracee Porter divides her time between her busy schedule as a student and driving a taxicab.

She energetically hustles around campus checking on all the food bins for the Associated Student Union holiday food drive. At 42 years old, Tracee Porter laughs just as hard as she works to maintain her 3.5 GPA, 15 units, a position on ASU, all while driving around a taxicab between classes.

Enrolling in Valley College fall of 2007, she truly has reached superhuman status with her student involvement in ASU, her workload, and personality. She's planned the past two Deans List Receptions along with the current food drive. Fernando Alvarez, Commissioner of Public Relations for ASU, has worked with Porter for almost a year and respects her colleague's work ethic and balance.

"I think it is amazing what she's doing and she's always on the dean's list … I mean, she balances everything perfect; she works, she parents, and she's a student," he said.

The Los Angles native graduated from Chatsworth High School in 1984 and immediately enrolled at San Francisco State University, where she completed two years of college before an unexpected pregnancy. Forced to choose between raising her child and receiving her education, she chose to be a mother and worked a variety of jobs to support her son.

During a taxicab ride in 2001, she had an epiphany to become a taxicab driver herself. Working since then, you name it, and it has happened in her backseat.

"People having sex in my car… The best tip I have ever gotten was a $2000 tip," she said. "I have picked up someone who I know they didn't have enough money to get in the cab but it was raining and it was cold, and it was 'come on I'll give you a ride' type of thing."

During this time, she experienced a nervous breakdown. She continuously struggled through highs and lows, feeling moments of Wonder Woman strength enrolling in 21 units at a community college, and then crashing into horrible depressions that left her bed ridden.

In 2003, her mom noticed her daughter's behavior and took her to a facility, where she was diagnosed with bipolar disorder, a diagnosis that finally brought sense into her life.

"For over 20 years there was something wrong, but I didn't know what it was. I would start and stop school… It was not until 2004 that I was diagnosed as bipolar," she said.

Her son, Alex Porter, also a Valley student, praises her mother's courage even if he gets a little embarrassed seeing her on campus.

"Yeah, I was running through the campus and I saw my mom coming out of the chemistry building, but it's fine. I'm glad she's doing what she's done, and she's transferring soon anyways," he laughs. "I'm incredibly proud of my mother, she's been through a lot, she's overcome a lot, for her to still have a will to do something especially in this world is an amazing thing."

Porter is currently applying to four-year universities, including UCLA, USC, and Loyola Marymount University. She plans to get her doctorate and become a teacher, hopefully giving back and educating a ride range of students; similar to the education she received at Valley.

"I have a story, and I want to make sure people realize that no matter what you have gone through your past is your past and you can reinvent yourself a hundred different ways … I'm 42 years old and I'm graduating from college."

TOP 5 STORIES @ LAVALLEYSTAR.COM

Prop. 8 Provokes Protests
By Sasha Santacruz

Election Results Are A Mixed Bag
By Astrid Seipelt

The Pressure To Be The Skinniest
By Jasmine Jackson

Still Hope For Equality
By Kristen Becker

'09 Forecast: Boston vs. L.A.
By H. Gore

WHAT'S NEW @ LAVALLEYSTAR.COM

Untrue Blood
By Brad Taylor

Matisyahu Concert Review
By Joe LaFleur

"Quantum of Solace" Movie Review
By Josh Spence

"Changeling" Movie Review
By Andy Alcaraz

"Twilight" Movie Review
By Jasmine Jackson

"Mortal Kombat vs. DC Universe" Video game Review
By Brad Taylor

Thanksgiving vs. Thanksglobal
By Sharon Hardwick

For additional content, please visit www.lavalleystar.com

UPCOMING RELEASES

CD

PICK OF THE WEEK:



SCOTT WEILAND, *"HAPPY" IN GALOSHES*

OTHER RELEASES:

Rivers Cuomo, *Alone II: The Home Recordings of Rivers Cuomo*

Trace Adkins, *X*

FILM

PICK OF THE WEEK:



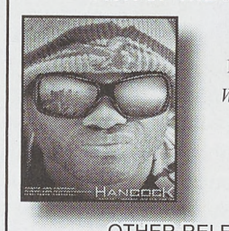
MILK, *SEAN PENN, JOSH BROLIN, JAMES FRANCO, EMILE HIRSCH*

UPCOMING RELEASES:

Transporter 3
Australia
Four Christmases

DVD

PICK OF THE WEEK:



HANCOCK *WILL SMITH, CHARLIZE THERON*

OTHER RELEASES:

Fred Claus
Meet Dave
Space Chimps

DON'T FORGET TO YouTube

Pantallica- Seek and Destroy
The Mars Volta- The Other White Meat
Suicidal Tendencies- Institutionalized
Smashing Pumpkins- G.L.O.W.

DON'T FORGET TO TiVo

Boston Legal- Mondays on ABC
House- Tuesdays on Fox
Sons of Anarchy-Wed. on FX
Dexter- Sundays on Showtime

On Campus



JOHN CAMARENA/ VALLEY STAR

SQUIRRELS GONE WILD – Valley students do not have to look very hard to find a furry friend or two scurrying about the campus.

It's A Squirrel Eat Squirrel Campus

■ **Valley College is not just an educational institution, but a wildland filled with cats, squirrels, and other assorted rodents taking up residence amongst the classrooms.**

BY LAUREN LEES
STAFF WRITER

A squirrel stands on his hind legs, sniffing an unknown scent wafting in the air. In an instant, it dashes off towards another of his kind, launching an attack. The two commence a game of chase, running throughout the grounds, dashing between benches, and flying up trees.

This is a classic scenario seen on campus everyday, whether they are mating, fighting, or playing, Valley College squirrels are notorious when it comes to other species contact.

Journalism major Rico Robinson is enrolled at Pierce College, yet takes an occasional class here at Valley. However limited his time is on campus, he's here enough to have met an occasional squirrel or two.

"I like the squirrels. I think the squirrels are pretty fierce cause they don't really run from me all the time, they'll stand there and come closer to you," said Robinson.

The squirrels that run around campus are known as Grey squirrels, and stem from the order Rodentia. According to squirrelnet.com, the word squirrel means 'shadow tail' in Greek. They can eat the equivalent their body weight, which is between 0.5 to 4 pounds every week, and can fall a distance of 100 feet without causing harm to themselves, because their tail acts as a parachute and helps balance them.

Benjamin Moye, treasurer for the Associated Student Union, made friends with one particular squirrel, whom he calls Cheeks, who hangs out between the Business Journalism and Life Science Business.

"Cheeks is pretty serious… he's the biggest squirrel I have ever seen in my life" said Moye. "I took a picture of him on my other phone, he's huge. And he will literally follow you and tug on your pants … We fed him, he demanded it."

Student Yara Herrart has witnessed a group of squirrels attack a plate of food one woman left for some of the stray cats on campus.

"They're feisty little bastards, for one thing, just the way they scavenge for food … they kind of exude this charming little cuteness to them," said Herrart. "I think they get a little bit too fat and just spoiled and they become little gluttons.

Not to discriminate, the squirrels harass the faculty and staff on campus equally. Bookstore Manager Claudette Burns can recount numerous tales of the squirrels lounging around in her store.

"The squirrels actually know the doors are motion sensitive, and they'll move until the doors are open. We've actually had squirrels come in and steal candy bars," said Burns. "One day I heard a girl screaming because there was a squirrel half way into the store and we just quietly just walk them to the front and say 'no, no, no'."

Nearly all students who walk onto Valley get quite familiar with those bushy tailed critters, whether by feeding them, touching them, or watching them run around Monarch Square. While they allow us to take classes during the day, it isn't until after the last class ends, and all the doors get locked, that the squirrels finally have their home to themselves.

Turkey Day To Do List

■ **Thanksgiving Day offers plenty more than just food, food, food**

BY SHARON HARDWICK
STAFF WRITER

Traditionally students have fled college campuses by planes, trains, and automobiles, with suitcases full of dirty laundry and stacks of books to read. However, this year may be different. Students are pinching pennies tighter and tighter as today's gloomy economy bears down harder and harder. With that in mind, here are my top five things to do on Thanksgiving Day that won't bust the bank, after you've given thanks of course.

1.Be clean. There is a Zen proverb that says, "After enlightenment, the laundry." So, be thankful for all the 'edumication' you received this semester, stock up on quarters and get that heaping pile of dirty clothes to the Laundromat, before your clothes walk out on you.

2.Know thy Thanksgiving. Most people will be sitting (or lying) down for this belly-busting day, so get that laptop on your lap and brush up on your knowledge of Thanksgiving history. History.com is an excellent source of information, featuring videos and commentary. Oh, and the laptop does wonders to hide bursting buttons and unbuckled belts.

3.Get out! Of any day in the year, Thanksgiving Day is the day to be active. According to The American Council on Exercise, the average person will consume well over 3,000 calories and 229 grams of fat on turkey day. So, get to your local park for a game of touch football, take a stroll with the family in tow, or, if you live close enough to walk to the celebrity pit-stop Paty's (10001 Riverside Dr., Toluca Lake, CA 91602) they will be open Thanksgiving Day with hot coffee and apple pie.

4.Make the grade. Take the opportunity to crack open the books. No family member can fight the argument, "But I have a ton of work to do," no matter how badly they want you to join in on a game of Yahtzee. Find a quiet room in the house, close the door and finish that assignment you just haven't had the time to get to yet. iTunes offers a great selection of study music for every ear: Bach: The Cello Suites by Yo Yo Ma for the classical-ite. For those who like a little edge in their education, Ratatat's LP3 is an excellent non-lyrical choice. And for those looking for a coffeehouse experience with a little Cuban flare, download Buena Vista Social Club.

5.Ixnay Black Friday. Black Friday often feels like an extension of the debauchery that takes place at the dinner table the night before. These days it's safe to assume advertisers will try to take your money any which way they know how with deals, door busters and layaway. Instead of feeding into this shopping frenzy stay at home, put on some music, and take your mind off spending by sorting out your finances. Goodhousekeeping.com offers nine reasons why getting your finances in order is better than buying.

The job of a student is to learn, and this Thanksgiving Day there might be a lesson in gratitude for everyone. Instead of huffing all the way to the Laundromat, be thankful for the clothes on your back. Instead of wishing for a new flat screen television, be thankful for the entertainment (no matter how crazy) your family provides. Instead of complaining about too much work, be thankful for your education because as the old adage says "If a fellow isn't thankful for what he's got, he isn't likely to be thankful for what he's going to get."

Valley College Football has a Season for the Ages

BY H. GORE
STAFF WRITER

Valley College completed its most successful football campaign in 11 years, with a 37-30 victory over American Pacific Conference champions Antelope Valley College on Nov 15. The win gave Valley six on the season, the most since 1997, and the 5-2 conference mark was the best since going 6-0 in 1996.

"This is the first six win season we've had in a really long time so this is a stepping stone for the program and we're pretty happy as a team," said quarterback Bret Visciglia.

Visciglia was named Co-Offensive Player of the Year in the American Division Pacific Conference and finished the season 201-359 for 2899 yards with 27 touchdowns against 15 interceptions.

Fourteen other Monarchs received team conference honors in a season that saw Valley make 12 additions to the school's record book.

Although the season ended on a high note, things looked gloomy for the college through the first four games. Valley's record was 1-3, the team was coming off of a loss to Santa Monica College, and they were facing the number one offense in the conference at the time in West Los Angeles College. Head coach Jimmy Sims looks at that moment as the turning point of the season.

"I think that's when the quarterback came around and trusted the coaching staff wholeheartedly because from that point on he took off like a rocket," said Sims. "The defense started believing in themselves because we changed some things in the scheme and the kids responded to them."

The Monarchs defeated West L.A. 35-10 and then proceeded to beat East Los Angeles College 41-20, Los Angeles Southwest College 33-17, and Pierce College 50-13 to improve to 5-3 on the season. The next game, a showdown against Santa Barbara College, was also an opportunity for Valley to keep their postseason hopes alive.

Santa Barbara put an end to Valley's run and playoff chance with a 55-52 victory on Nov 8 in Santa Barbara. The team bounced back from the disappointing loss with the victory over Antelope Valley.

With only 10 sophomores on the Valley roster, the team has a chance to return up to 50 players. The offense expects to lose sophomore running back James Walker, sophomore wide receiver Cordarol Scales, and sophomore wide receiver Matt Johnson. Offensive coordinator Dameon Porter is excited about returning so many players for next season.

"Whenever you have eight starters coming back on either side of the football you have a lot to look forward too," said Porter. "We just have to keep everybody eligible and accountable during the offseason. That's the hard part."

AMERICAN DIVISION PACIFIC CONFERENCE HONORS

Quarterback Bret Visciglia (Fr.)
Co-Offensive Player of the Year

First Team Offense
Offensive guard Ryan Hardy (Fr.)
Offensive Tackle Travis Tucker (Fr.)
Wide receiver Matt Johnson (So.)
Running back James Walker (So.)
Kicker Wilmer Segura (Fr.)

First Team Defense
Cornerback Rodney Glass (Fr.)

Second Team Offense
Center Eric Jusko (Fr.)
Tight end Chase Leak (Fr.)
Wide receiver Gerald Scarber (Fr.)
Wide receiver Joel Clements (Fr.)

Second Team Defense
Defensive tackle Mike Jones (So.)
Defensive end DeAndre Bowman (So.)
Inside linebacker Wayne Saumalu (Fr.)
Punter Wilmer Segura (Fr.)



SCOTT MITCHELL, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR

BIG TIME PLAY - Valley College quarterback Bret Visciglia muscles out the grasp of a defender during the Monarchs final game of the season against Antelope Valley College at Monarch Stadium Nov. 15. The Monarchs 37-30 victory over the Pacific Conference Champions brought their record to 6-4.

Standout Wideout Looks to Future

BY H. GORE
STAFF WRITER

Valley College wide receiver Matt Johnson has been running football pass patterns since he was 13 years old, but it took him seven years to accept the team concept.

"If you would've talked to me last year I would've been more about myself, but I learned to be more of a teammate this year," sa

id Johnson. "I just wanted to win. I didn't care how many passes I caught as long as we won the game."

Now 20 years old, the Lubbock, Texas native and Pacific Conference first team offense wide receiver attributes his changein attitude to his Valley teammates and coaches.

"Our running back James Walker and Coach Porter helped me change," said Johnson. "Walker would always tell me 'You think it's always about you,' and after a while I started to see what he was talking about."

Not only did Johnson need to change his 'me first' outlook, he admits he needed to put more effort into his studies. The wide receiver thanks head coach Jimmy Sims for emphasizing what to focus on during his college years.

"In high school I didn't do anything, I got by because I was an athlete," said Johnson. "Coach Sims made me realize that if I wanna keep doing this, I gotta go to class, I gotta keep doing the work."

Johnson began his football career in Texas, where everything is bigger and more important. He can recall games when instruction didn't come from the coaches or his family, but fans in the stands who would call players over to tell them where they made mistakes.

Johnson moved to California in 2005 after the death of his Aunt Judy, who had raised him from the age of two to sixteen. He remembers his aunt calling him a "smart lazy person" because of his approach to studying.

Johnson attended Moreno Valley High School, where he was an all-league long jumper and triple jumper. After graduating, Johnson played football for Pierce College, where he met offensive coordinator Dameon Porter. The two forged a relationship and when Porter left Pierce to become Valley's offensive coordinator, Johnson followed.

"Matt's a good kid and it was nice to see him grow as a football player," said Porter. "There's no question about his ability but he needs to keep studying to give himself an opportunity to continue his career."

"I was told when I was young that all that yelling doesn't mean anything, it's about how you play."
- Valley wide receiver Matt Johnson

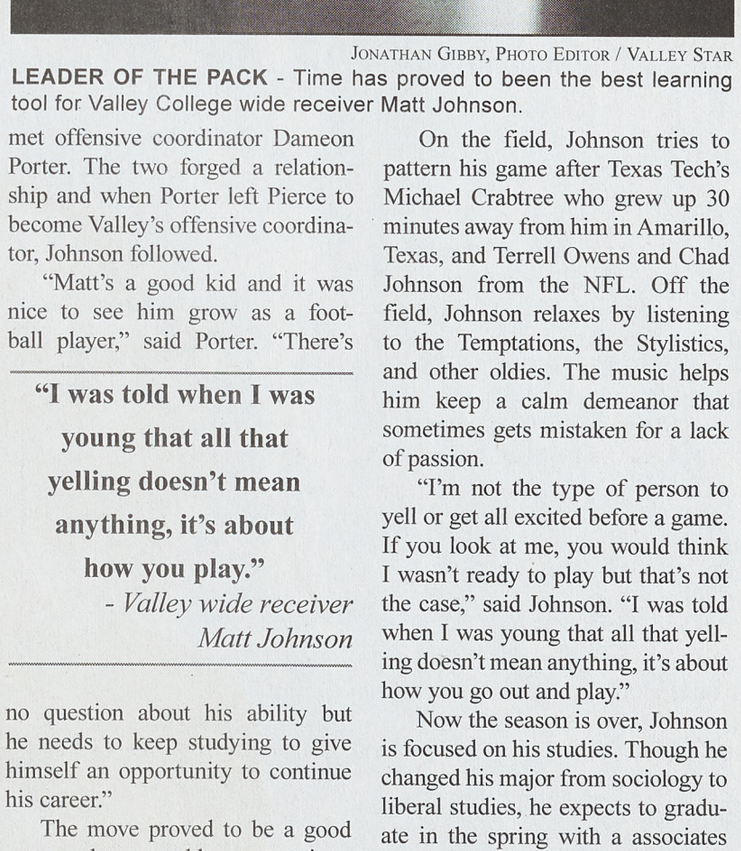
The move proved to be a good one, as he was able to stay in a system he was comfortable with, and was reunited with his friend, quarterback Bret Visciglia. Johnson and Visciglia met through Bret's brother Kyle, whom Johnson played with at Pierce. These factors led to Johnson's breakout season this year of 51 catches, 803 yards, and eight touchdowns.

On the field, Johnson tries to pattern his game after Texas Tech's Michael Crabtree who grew up 30 minutes away from him in Amarillo, Texas, and Terrell Owens and Chad Johnson from the NFL. Off the field, Johnson relaxes by listening to the Temptations, the Stylistics, and other oldies. The music helps him keep a calm demeanor that sometimes gets mistaken for a lack of passion.

"I'm not the type of person to yell or get all excited before a game. If you look at me, you would think I wasn't ready to play but that's not the case," said Johnson. "I was told when I was young that all that yelling doesn't mean anything, it's about how you go out and play."

Now the season is over, Johnson is focused on his studies. Though he changed his major from sociology to liberal studies, he expects to graduate in the spring with a associates degree. Johnson wants to transfer to any school that can give him decent playing time but if he had his choice, it would be a school that uses an offense similar to Valley's.

"I like Michigan's style of offense," said Johnson. "I'd like to stay in the spread offense if possible so Michigan, South Florida, SMU [Southern Methodist University]



JONATHAN GIBBY, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

LEADER OF THE PACK - Time has proved to been the best learning tool for Valley College wide receiver Matt Johnson.

SPORTS OPINION

Bowling for Mediocrity, not Excellence

■ **College football's postseason exemplifies the lack of competitiveness in modern sports.**

BY JOE LAFLEUR
STAFF WRITER

The days of breeding competitiveness in athletics are over. The phrases 'walk it off,' and 'it's a long way from your heart' are no longer accepted because they're not politically correct. Parents now want their children's coaches to be sensitive toward their feelings and make sure little Billy's sniffles don't turn into a cold. In today's society, everybody is a winner, even if you've lost. Nothing demonstrates this more than college football bowl games.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association football postseason consists of 34 bowl games, five of which are part of the flawed Bowl Championships Series that involves a ranking system more complicated than the electoral college.

The top two teams in the BCS standings at the end of season automatically go to the national championship game. The remaining top teams in the five major conferences (Pac 10, Big 10, Big 12, ACC and SEC) are contractually committed to the other BCS bowl games. For example, the Pac 10 and Big 10 champions will play each other in the Rose Bowl.

The champions of the other conferences, which, for some unexplained reason, have been deemed less important, (Conference USA, Mid-American Conference, Mountain West Conference, Sun Belt Conference and the Western Athletic Conference) will earn one of the four remaining spots in the above mentioned BCS bowl game 'if either: A. Such team is ranked in the top 12 of the final BCS Standings, or B, such team is ranked in the top 16 of the final BCS standings and its ranking in the final BCS standings is higher than that of a champion of a conference that has an annual automatic berth in one of the BCS bowls,' according to sportsline.com.

If you're confused, you are not alone. Even President-elect Barack Obama has taken his call for change and applied it to college football, where he wants to see an eight-team playoff instead of the current system.

With 34 bowl games being offered this year, 68 of the 120 NCAA Division 1-A teams will receive invitations to play. Don't go celebrating just yet Middle Tennessee State; there is one qualification to meet. For a team to be bowl eligible, they must win at least six of their regular season games.

That's right, a .500 team may get the thrilling chance to play in the prestigious Gaylord Hotels Music City Bowl. Why not reward mediocrity? After all, nobody wants to hurt the feelings of a 6'5" steroid-ingesting linebacker by not inviting him to the party.

College football has regressed to the ways of recreational sports leagues across the nation, where the mantra of choice has become 'everyone gets a trophy and no one goes home sad.'

With that said, congratulations losers! You've somehow become winners and if anyone tells you differently, just show them your consolation prize from the San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl.

VALLEY MEN MAKE THEIR MARK

BY SCOTT MITCHELL
CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

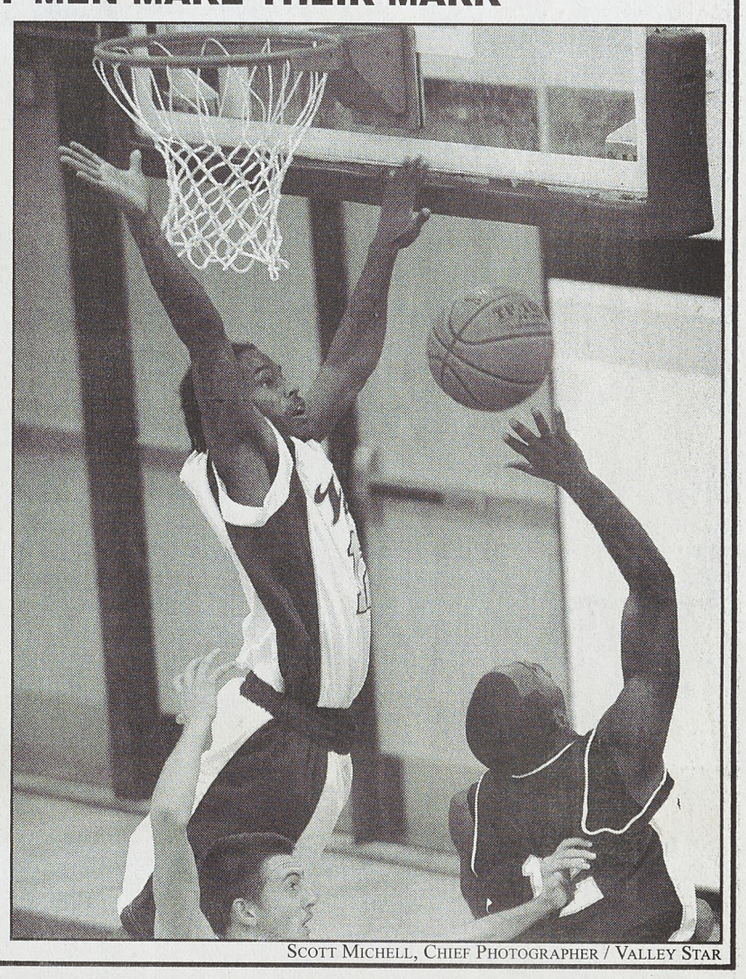
Valley College freshman guard Robert Brown made his presence known on both ends of the court as he hustled to stop a Southwestern College fast break in the second half of the Monarchs 67-64 win at home on Saturday.

The Monarchs led the entire game but the young Southwestern team played tough and made a serious second half surge.

With two seconds left on the clock, the visiting coach received a technical call for challenging the officials. The Monarchs took possession of the ball, shot a technical foul, sealing victory for the green and gold.

Both benches, as well as spectators complained about the officiating and the high numbers of fouls called against both teams.

The Monarchs also played Palomar College at home Friday night and posted an 84-70 win, giving Valley 3 -2 record.



SCOTT MICHELL, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR

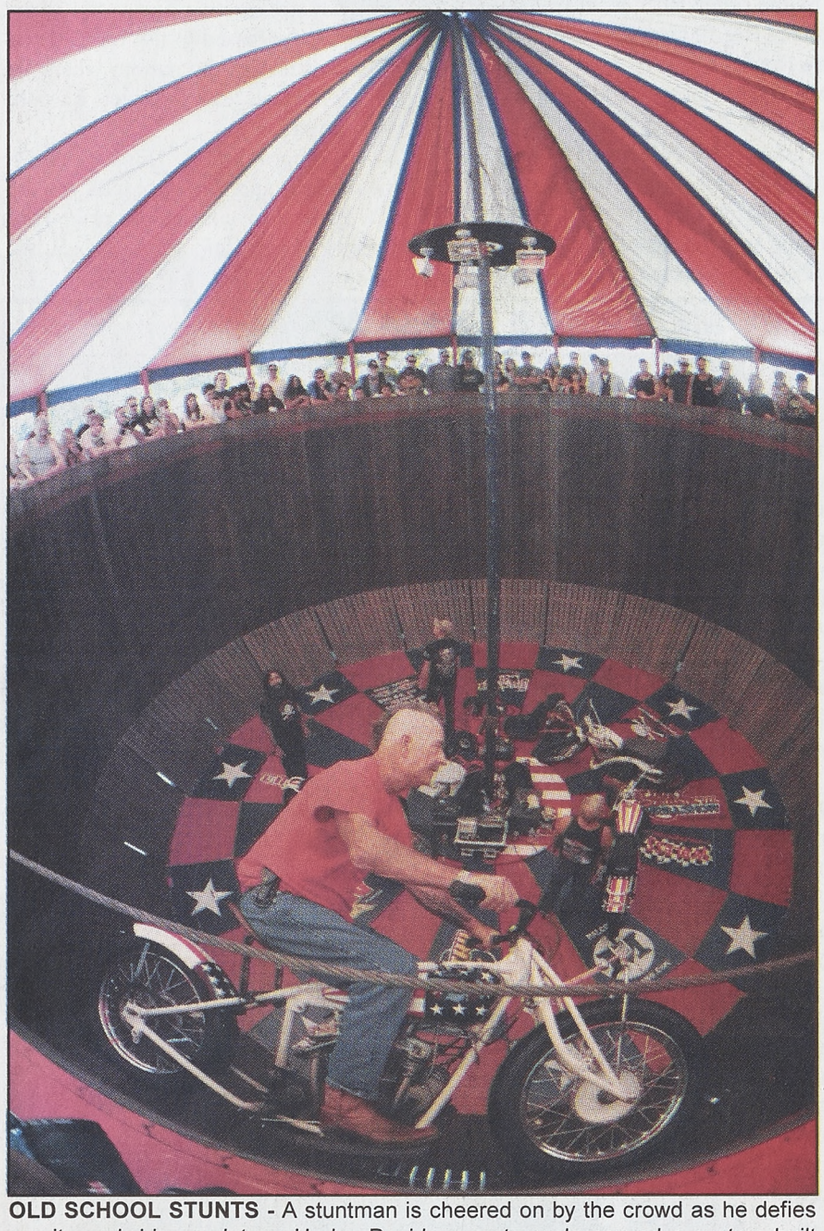
Love Ride 25 Raises Over $1 Million For Local Charities



CLASSIC AMERICAN STEEL - An estimated 17,000 motorcycles participated in Love Ride 25, including this custom Harley Davidson.



HUGE CROWD - An estimated 20,000 people gathered at the Pomona Fairgrounds to experience the atmosphere of Love Ride 25.



OLD SCHOOL STUNTS - A stuntman is cheered on by the crowd as he defies gravity and rides a vintage Harley Davidson motorcycle around a custom built wooden velodrome.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY SCOTT MITCHELL, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR

ROCKING FOR A CURE - ZZ Top bass player Dusty Hill makes it look easy as he and his band mates, Frank Beard and Billy Gibbons, rock Love Ride 25.

SCOTT MITCHELL
CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

The world's largest single day motorcycle fundraiser celebrated it's 25th anniversary Oct. 26 at the Pomona Fairgrounds where over 25,000 bikers, celebrities, and fans shared some good times and raised more than $1 million for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The Love Ride started at 6 a.m. in front of Glendale Harley Davidson, where thousands of motorcycles fill the streets. Bikers from around the world made their way to Glendale to participate in the charity event, as well as the high octane activities associated with it.

Shortly after 9 a.m., Jay Leno, Grand Marshall of the event, along with 150 celebrities and VIP's led the procession of bikes through Glendale on their way to Pomona. Every Love Ride features a star studded rock and roll concert, with this year's show featuring The Foo Fighters, ZZ Top, and The Tubes.

In addition to the concert, there was a motorcycle marketplace, vendor booths, stunt shows, exhibits, auctions, BBQ, tattoo artists, and a lot of cold beer.

Actors Peter Fonda and Robert Patrick were honorary Grand Marshalls.

Duff McKagen and Matt Sorum of Velvet Revolver, Mark-Paul Gosselaar, Rutger Hauer, Katy Sagal and the cast of Sons of Anarchy, Larry Hagman, and Lorenzo Lamas were among the celebrities that participated in event.

Oliver Shokouh, owner of Glendale Harley, founded the Love Ride in 1984. Since then, Shokough and company have raised over $20 million for several charities. Shokough was recently inducted into the Sturgis Motorcycle Halls Of Fame in South Dakota.

The Love Ride coincides with California Bike Week, which is the premier motorcycle event in the state.



FOOS FOR A CAUSE - David Grohl and the Foo Fighters co-headlined Love Ride 25 with ZZ Top. The event raised over $1 million for local charities.